

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6744

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS EPA FOR DR. BUNCH

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, NATO, OTRA

SUBJ: CCMS: WASTE WATER PROJECT AND THE BUNCH VISIT

REF: STATE 9 1102

1. DR. BUNCH OF EPA TOURED THE WATER TREATMENT TEST FACILITIES OF THE NORWEGIAN WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NIVA) AT KJELLER, JUST OUTSIDE OSLO, ON JUNE 6 AND SPENT THE 7 TH AT NIVA'S OSLO OFFICES DISCUSSING WATER TREATMENT POLICY, POSSIBILITIES, AND PROBLEMS WITH THE NORWEGIAN EXPERT COMMUNITY; INCLUDED WAS A TWO- HOUR SEMINAR WITH SOME 35 NORWEGIAN WATER TREATMENT EXPERTS.

2. ON JUNE 8, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY CCMS OFFICER, BUNCH MET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE NORWEGIAN ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY, INCLUDING HAAKON HJELDE, A LAWYER RECENTLY SECONDED FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO WORK AS DIRECTOR- GENERAL LYKKE'S DEPUTY FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS, AND SVEIN KNUDSEN, WHO ATTENDED THE CCMS PLENARY IN OTTAWA.

3. BUNCH DISCUSSED US WATER TREATMENT POLICY, THE NEED

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FOR TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE, THE LOOMING PROBLEMS OF SLUDGE

DISPOSAL, AND THE POSSIBLE RELEVANCE TO NORWAY OF THE DIFFERENT WASTE WATER TREATMENT PROCESSES NOW BEING TESTED IN GERMANY, THE UK, FRANCE, AND THE US. HE ALSO COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON HIS OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATE AND REQUIREMENTS OF NORWEGIAN WASTE WATER TECHNOLOGY AS HE UNDERSTANDS THEM.

4. EMBOFF REFERRED TO EXPRESSIONS OF NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN THE CCMS WASTE WATER PROJECT AND -- ALLUDING TO THE SUCCESSFUL INCORPORATION OF THE OSLO AIR POLLUTION STUDY INTO THE CCMS PROJECT -- WONDERED WHAT NORWAY HAS IN MIND ON WASTE WATER. KNUDSEN INDICATED NORWAY IS NOT REALLY CLEAR ON THIS; AS A FIRST STEP, HOWEVER, NORWAY PLANS TO INVITE THE DIRECTOR OF THE BRITISH CCMS PILOT PROJECT TO VISIT OSLO LATER THIS YEAR TO OBSERVE WHAT NORWAY IS DOING AND TO ADVISE HOW NORWAY MIGHT BECOME USEFULLY INVOLVED IN THAT PILOT PROJECT. WE URGED ALSO THAT NORWAY BE REPRESENTED AT FUTURE EXPERT PANEL MEETINGS ON THE PROJECT SO THAT TESTING AND RESEARCH NOW BEING DONE IN GERMANY, FRANCE, AND ENGLAND MIGHT BE TASKED WITH QUESTIONS BASED ON NORWAY'S NEEDS AND CONDITIONS.

5. SPEAKING MORE BROADLY ON NORWEGIAN POLICY, KNUDSEN OBSERVED THAT INVOLVING NORWAY IN THE CCMS PROJECT ON WASTE WATER TREATMENT MIGHT ALSO BE A BIT EASIER AFTER THE FALL ELECTIONS. THE LONG- AWAITED REPORT WHICH THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY HAS PREPARED AS A BASIS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY WILL NOT BE PRESENTED FOR PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS; ONLY AD HOC DECISIONS CAN BE MADE UNTIL THESE BROAD PROPOSALS ARE APPROVED AS POLICY.

6. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ON THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PROBLEM, NORWAY WILL, OF COURSE, BE GUIDED BY WHAT NIVA DIRECTOR BAALSRUD RECOMMENDS. BUT THERE ARE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AS WELL, INCLUDING THE NEED TO EVOLVE TECHNIQUES RELEVANT NOT JUST FOR LARGE POPULATION CENTERS LIKE OSLO, WHERE ONE IN TEN NORWEGIANS LIVES AND WHERE THE GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO LIMIT FURTHER GROWTH, BUT ALSO FOR THE SMALL COMMUNITIES SCATTERED ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WHERE  
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FACTORS INVOLVING COST AND ECONOMIES OF SCALE HAVE TO GIVE WAY TO A DISTRICT POLICY AIMED AT ENCOURAGING GROWTH AND PREVENTING FURTHER DEPOPULATION.

7. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE THE DEPTH OF NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN THE CCMS WASTE WATER PROJECT, ESPECIALLY IF IT INVOLVES THE COST OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION. WE THINK, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE BRITISH AND THE NORWEGIANS TO GET TOGETHER ON THIS AND

RECOMMEND THAT THE BRITISH BE ENCOURAGED TO ACCEPT THE  
NORWEGIAN INVITATION WHEN IT MATERIALIZES.  
CROWE

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